

Indiana House of Representatives

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DVORAK HONORS DAVID TIDMARSH, WINNER OF THE NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

INDIANAPOLIS -- The Indiana House of Representatives passed a House Concurrent Resolution today honoring David Tidmarsh, winner of the 77th National Spelling Bee. The concurrent resolution was sponsored by State Rep. Ryan Dvorak (D-South Bend).

Tidmarsh, an 8th-grader attending Edison Intermediate Center in South Bend, beat out a field of 265 other contestants to become the 2004 National Spelling Bee champion.

"It really means a lot to me that this resolution was passed by the House," said Tidmarsh. "My support from my parents and teachers and from studying hard at school helped me to win. Education is the foundation for success."

The National Spelling Bee has been administered by the E. W. Scripps Company, a media concern with interests in newspapers and television stations, since 1941. The competition was originally formed by the *Louisville Courier-Journal* in 1925.

The competition begins at the school level and progresses through the local and regional levels before the top spellers from around the country converge in Washington, D.C. every May for the national competition.

Tidmarsh won the competition by spelling "autochthonous" in the 15th round of the spelling bee. According to Webster's Dictionary, autochthonous means "native; indigenous; formed or originating in the place where found."

"David's accomplishment is an inspiration for the students of Indiana and for Indiana education in general," said Dvorak. "At a time when some people are focusing on the negative effects of the state budget on education, I feel it is important to recognize that a product of South Bend public schools was able to become the champion of the National Spelling Bee. We should all be proud of David and all of our students who work hard every day."